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3 April 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates

SUBJECT: Policy concerning OWS Working Papers

REFERENCE: Memorandum to Chief, COMPS, from AD/OWS dated 18 November 1949, Subject: Distribution of the CIA Weekly Summary

1. A full examination of the "Weekly Review" proposal, to supplement the more restrictive "Weekly Summary", included in the reference memorandum, has led to the conclusion on the part of this Staff that it should not be implemented. The deciding factor in our reaching this conclusion was the finding that such a Weekly Review could not be fully coordinated in OWS each week without effort incommensurate to the relative importance of the publication. There is also considerable question as to whether such a publication would be desired by the agencies which would be its recipients.

2. If our conclusion dealing with the Weekly Review proposal is accepted as final, the Review is eliminated as a vehicle for the solution of the Working Paper problem. Yet the problem remains, and this Staff feels that it should be thoroughly examined.

3. It goes without saying that CIA should disseminate no publications that are not useful and that, as a general rule, its publications which go outside this Agency should be official CIA publications, i.e., at least coordinated within CIA if not among the IAC agencies, not just "working papers." COMPS will circularize the recipients outside CIA to determine their views concerning the working papers. The dissemination of those Working Papers found not to be useful should then be discontinued. With regard to the remainder, a definite policy should then be considered to govern their production, form, and dissemination.

PRESCOTT CHILDS, Chief
Coordination, Operations
and Policy Staff

cc: Exec.
AD/SCS
AD/OSI

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